

MINUTES

Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Task Force Thursday December 11, 2008 Council Chambers Municipal Building 93 Cottage Street

I. Call to Order at 8:34 AM

Members present: Paul Paradis, Chairman; Chris Fogg, Vice-Chairman; Anne Krieg, Secretary; Nathan Young, Fred Cook, Mary Opdyke, Bob Bahr, Greg Veilleux, George Seavey, Charlie Phippen, Amy Powers, Greg Gordon

II. There were no excused absences as all members were present.

III. Minutes

November 13, 2008 minutes were edited as follows and approved:

Fogg, Veilleux and Seavey were excused as absent page 3.

IV. Adoption of agenda

Veilleux moved to accept the agenda with a second from Opdyke. All were in favor.

V. Staff Reports

A. Report from Paul Paradis on Council action regarding downtown Drop off recommendation.

He noted the task force received unanimous acceptance of recommendation from the Council.

When can it start was questioned. It was noted there is no funding for extra officer until fiscal year begins. The motion allows for discretion by the Chief, Chamber and industry.

Gordon wants a day to day evaluation of whether a drop off occurs or not. He noted issues with the German ship in language barriers. The tour bus operators use the loop back around to show people where to go and how to get back to the pier. He continued that people are often not comfortable, especially with a language barrier. Customs issues or other issues can delay tour return times that are not under their control.

Bahr requested this to be a future agenda item.

B. Report from Paul Paradis on Council discussion/action regarding a private proposal to provide a downtown tour.

Paradis reviewed the Olli's Trolley proposal and the Destination Management Plan's recommendation (and Comprehensive Plan) for an in-town shuttle, noting this particular case is a seasonal operation.

Young noted Parking & Traffic will review this at their February 2009 meeting.

VI. Regular Business

A. Continue discussion with Ocean Properties on future plans for West Street and service to Cruise Ship tenders and passengers.

Eben Salvatore from Ocean properties indicated they are focusing on hotel/garage/museum planning and plan to continue with footbridge and tendering facility later.

B. Taxi Tours

Group discussed issues which included resolution of whether a taxi and taxi conducting a tour are the same use and service to the visitor.

Cook and Krieg both noted that the areas should be segregated i.e. put taxis on Harborview Park and around the corner for tours

Seavey offered to use spaces in front of Harbor Place for taxi's and questioned if there was a security issue by allowing public access to those spaces.

Young moved with a second from Cook to forward a recommendation to the Town Council that on cruise ship scheduled days all Harborview Park spaces be dedicated to taxi's, car rental pick up.

Seavey remained concerned about safety

Fogg felt that spaces for taxi's is important; discussion going too far

Gordon said passengers need taxis and they expect that service and get denied because the taxi is a tour.

Opdyke expressed concern because the companies provide both services.

Cars parking in the area during cruise peredestrian operations can be difficult as passengers are trying to get across the street.

Phippen reminded the group that the town gave up 12 spaces across the street from Harbor Place. He agrees that operations on cruise ships need to be accommodated as that is what heir fee supports. He also noted that the town needs to do Phase II of the Waterfront Master Plan to allow for pick up and drop off.

Young/Cook withdrew their motion.

Phippen moved for task force sub-committee of Phippen, Young and Krieg to prepare a conceptual drawing for Harborview Park as outlined in the Waterfront Master Plan to allow pick up and drop off for a future agenda item. Young seconded. All in favor.

It was noted that Parking & Traffic Committee, Harbor Committee, and possibly Parks & Recreation Committee will have to review.

Paradis noted we need to address the current condition; this effort may be for a long-term solution.

Fuel and other utilities are there was also noted by Seavey.

Signage might be necessary to denote a 5 minute maximum, pick up and drop off.

Gordon offered for 2009, Harborview Park spaces are for taxis and tours.

Group discussed at length.

Gordon noted that his company is only aligned with the cruise industry. They make money on shore excursions, gambling and alcohol. They are paying fees for this service.

Security issues in front of Harbor Place were discussed briefly.

Powers questioned why not use that area for services, that is information, maps, Chamber staff, and welcome space. The Portland downtown district has a take down booth.

Krieg opined that using Harborview Park allows us to see how this area works while we are developing a plan.

Paradis feels removing spaces will not be well supported in the community.

Opdyke and Seavey both felt that the town needs to charge all companies use the area.

Young likes separating the traffic uses.

Powers reminded the group that this is a maritime operation, a terminal facility and a port and felt that having private cars in this area hinders operations.

Phippen made a motion designate Harborview Park (7 spaces) as a ground transportation area and change traffic pattern to one way as shown on the destination management plan. Veilleux seconded and requested those spaces in front of Harbor Place for public safety and information. Phippen agreed with the modification to the motion.

Group discussed issues surrounding private parking removal in front of Harbor place Park.

Krieg feels spaces need to be removed in front of Harbor Place and thought the public information area should be explored.

Eben Salvatore thought there might be confusion to people on when they can park in those spaces if it's not daily.

Young noted that we will free up a lane of traffic with this effort.

Phippen was concerned with removing spaces, thinks that Harbor Place should be a separate action.

Motion passed with Seavey opposed 10-1.

Young feels the area is secured for private vehicles and there is no need to take them out in his opinion.

Paradis wants to address who can use Harborview Park.

Group discussed.

Young felt strongly that the convenience of the passenger should be the top priority and not for tours.

Bahr questioned if it is discriminatory that we only allow year-round taxi's when there is a season for business.

Young answered to leave that open; the area would be designated as pick up and drop off only.

A fee was discussed.

Powers noted they currently pay \$1000 and have full access to the pier operations. She felt that the practice of turning people away is a bad passenger experience, and thus is not a service.

Krieg indicated that we need both taxi and tours, and again noted the segregation of the uses.

Young discussed the operations at the Bangor airport. He offered that if you want a tour service, make arrangements for a private property owner to use their land for pick up. Government is here to ensure the taxi service is provided to the passengers.

Bahr questioned if can we control this that specifically.

Gordon offered that a line up should be the rule, whereby the taxi would have to take everyone.

Powers reminded the group we should put Enterprise and tours around the corner as part of the plan

Veilleux reminded the group that the town had made another tour relocate to private property in the past. The taxis need to provide the service of transportation.

Fogg is concerned with separating the tours from taxis, the oversight and administration may be difficult.

It was noted that the Sub-committee will look at this more fully. Their work will include looking at what is there, outline issues, review ordinances as existing.

Powers moved with a second by Phippen to table the discussion to next week. All were in favor of the motion.

Krieg moved to table remaining items to next week. Young seconded and all were in favor.

C. Review of 2008 season tabled

- i. Passenger caps**
- ii. Operational problems**
- iii. Recommendations**

- D. Sidewalk Enhancements - Discussion and possible action on any recommendations of how to proceed with allocating funds for sidewalk and accessibility improvements. - tabled**
- E. Discussion and establishment of a timeline to deal with action items identified during the November 13, 2008 meeting - tabled**
- F. Walking Map - Report from walking map sub-committee - tabled**
- G. July 4th Cruise operations recommendations - tabled**

VII. Public Comment

Heather Sorokin noted that enforcement may be an issue. She wants to discuss sidewalks and maps with the task force at a future meeting.

Opdyke noted that taxis do provide transportation as well as tours.

Kay from the Kayak tours noted that her area will be compromised for pick up for bikes and kayaks. Young added that Harborview Park should be that area.

VIII. Items for next agenda as tabled

IX. Set next meeting time, date and place

- A. 8:30 AM December 18th, 2008 Bahr noted he will be absent.**
- B. 8:30 AM January 8th, 2009 Veilleux and Phippen noted they will be absent.**
- X. *Adjournment at 10:40 AM by a motion by Veilleux and second by Phippen. All were in favor of the motion.***

These minutes were prepared by Anne Krieg, Secretary to the Cruise Ship Study Task Force on January 7, 2009, for distribution at their meeting January 8, 2009.